

## **Voting Information News**

December 2005 of Vol. 15, No. 11

A roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) for voters, potential voters and those who assist voters.

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#### Voting Assistance Officers

## "To Do" This Month:

 $\overline{\mathbf{V}}$ Inventory supplies of voting materials on-hand within your organization. FVAP recommends stocking at least four FPCAs for each citizen you provide assistance to. This will provide enough forms for family voting age members, for changes of address, and spoilage of these forms during their completion.

- ☑ Distribute FPCAs to citizens covered by UOCAVA by January 15<sup>th</sup> as required by the DoD Directive 1000.4.
- ✓ Inform the citizens you serve of the early 2006 Primary election dates (see elections calendar at

#### www.fvap.gov).

Encourage these citizens to submit their FPCAs early.

# Revised Federal Post Card Application Form (SF 76) October 2005

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### Standard Form SF 76 – Revised (continued)

Page 1 shows a depiction of the revised October 2005 Federal Post Card Application Form (FPCA SF-76) request for registration and absentee ballot. This form is accepted by all states and territories as a simultaneous request for registration and/or an absentee ballot. The FPCA reflects changes in law as well as changes suggested by citizens voting under the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)*, and state and local government officials. The revised FPCA will be in stock and ready for ordering by December 1, 2005. The 1995 revision is still valid; however, it is highly recommended that you stock the October 2005 version as soon as possible.

Citizens voting under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) are eligible to participate in all elections for Federal offices in their state of legal residence. Many of these citizens are also eligible to vote in state and local elections. Because election laws vary from state to state, please consult the recently distributed, 2006-2007 Voting Assistance Guide or your Voting Assistance Officer (VAO). The Guide contains state-by-state procedures for UOCAVA citizens to register and/or request an absentee ballot using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA, SF-76). All shaded areas for your state or territory as indicated in the Guide must be completed. The Guide is available in hard copy format or on-line at the FVAP website. The FPCA is the first step in the www.fvap.gov. absentee voting process.

The following are general item-by-item instructions for completing the FPCA. It is important to realize that state laws determine the information required on the FPCA as well as the deadline for submitting the form. As a result, accurate completion and timely submission of the FPCA are critical.

Follow the instructions carefully when completing the FPCA. After completing the form, send it to your jurisdiction of voting residence. The *Guide* contains addresses for sending the completed form to your Local Election Official (LEO). Alternative means of transmitting election materials (faxing) are also outlined in the *Guide*.

Although Federal law states that the FPCA is valid for two regular Federal elections, FVAP recommends that you submit a new FPCA in January of every year and whenever you move to ensure that your absentee ballots will the sent to you in a timely manner. Here is an item-by-item breakdown:

Item 1 – I Request Ballots for All Elections In Which I Am Eligible To Vote And I Am: Place an X only in one block. Marking Block 1c generally means that you were a resident of that state before departing the U.S. and your intent to return at some time in the future is uncertain. Marking Block 1c applies for a Federal ballot only (if one is printed by the state).

Item 2 – My Information: Type or print full name, previous name (if applicable) sex, race, date of birth, social security number (most states require only the last four digits), state driver's license or I.D. number, telephone number and email address. Provide a complete fax number where the LEO may reach you. Some States and Territories allow you to request, receive, and/or return your ballot by fax. Refer to your state pages in the *Guide* for more details on electronic transmission and required information for your state.

Item 3 – My Voting Residence Address (for military, use legal residence. For overseas citizens, use last legal residence in U.S) (Required): A complete street address of where you actually lived in the state is necessary for the LEO to place you in the proper voting precinct. A post office box is not appropriate. If your address includes a Rural Route, use Item 6 (Remarks) to indicate the specific location of the residence (for example, 2 miles south of the intersection of Route 9 and I-34.) This address should be different from the one provided in Item 4 and must be within the county or township where you claim legal voting residence.

Item 4.a – Where To Send My Voting Materials: Enter the complete mailing address where you are currently living and where you wish to receive your absentee ballot. This address must be different from the address you provided in Item 3. If you will have a new mailing address by the time election materials will be sent to you, please be sure to indicate this address here.

**Item 4.b – My Forwarding Address:** Complete 4.b only if you do not want your ballot mailed to the address in Block 4.a. This block would be used by citizens who have their mail forwarded by a courier or forwarding service.

## Standard Form SF 76 – Revised (continued)

Item 4.c – I Prefer To Receive My Absentee Ballot, As Permitted By My State, By: Check the preference that you would like to receive your ballot. Some States and Territories allow you to request, receive, and/or return your ballot by fax or email. Refer to your state pages in the *Guide* for more details on electronic transmission. If your state does not permit faxing or emailing ballots, you must check the mail box.

**Item 5 – My Political Party Affiliation:** In most states and territories, you must specify your party affiliation to vote in primary elections. Please refer to the *Guide* for specific information regarding your state's primary elections.

**Item 6 – Additional Information:** Designate the period for which you want to receive ballots – see instructions for Block 6 paragraph (3). Consult the Voting Assistance Guide for other specific state instructions.

**Item 7 - Affirmation by applicant:** Read affirmation, and sign and date.

**Item 7 - Witness/Notary:** Most states and territories do not require a witness or notary. Check the *Guide* for state-specific requirements and instructions.

Absentee voting materials may be obtained through your unit, Embassy, or Consulate VAO. Many US citizens' organizations and corporations overseas maintain a stock of absentee voting materials as well. An on-line (PDF) version of the FPCA is also available for all states and territories except Guam and American Samoa at <a href="https://www.fvap.gov">www.fvap.gov</a>. The FPCA can be completed on-line or printed out and completed. After completing the application, it must be signed, dated and placed in an envelope affixed with proper postage. Postage free envelopes, for use in the U.S. Postal System, can also be printed from the FVAP web site. <a href="https://www.gov.nih.gov.ni

#### Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot - Revised

The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) is a backup "emergency" ballot available for citizens covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). The backup ballot is valid only when all criteria for its use have been met.

The Federal Write-In Ballot (FWAB) has been revised and in now being approved for final print. The voter's declaration/affirmation will be completed and placed in the larger mailing envelope along with the security envelope which contains the ballot.

Refer to the Voting Assistance Guide for details on obtaining and usage the FWAB.

#### **Voting Action Officers**

**Department of State: Office of Overseas Citizens Services** 

Chief VAO: Mr. Jack Markey, tel: (202) 736-4937, fax: (202) 647-6201, Email: votinginfo@state.gov Deputy VAO: Ms. Linda Hoover, tel: (202) 647-5435, fax: (202) 647-6201, Email: votinginfo@state.gov

Service Voting Action Officers

U.S. Dept. of the Army: Mr. James Davis tel: (703) 325-4530 DSN: 221-4530; fax: (703) 325-4532

DSN fax: 221-4532, Email: davisj@hoffman.army.mil,

https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/Active/TAGD/pssd/psb/votingindex.htm

U.S. Dept. of the Navy: LT Dwight H. Isaacs tel: 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (827-5672) (select option 6 from menu),

fax: (901) 874-6825, DSN fax: 882-6825,

Email: vote@navy.mil, http://www.mwr.navy.mil/nvap/index.html

U.S. Dept. of the Air Force: Mr. John Lowrance tel: (210) 565-5000, toll free: 1-800 616-3775 (Select options 1, then 1, then 2 from

menu), DSN 665-5000; fax: (210) 565-2543, DSN fax: 665-2543;

Email: afpc/dpsfvotingpgmdlist@randolph.af.mil; http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund/

**U.S. Marine Corps:** Mr. David E. James **tel**: (703) 784-9511, **DSN**: 278-9511; **fax**: (703) 784-9823,

DSN fax: 278-9823; Email: david.e.james@usmc.mil

https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/pls/portal/url/page/m\_ra\_home/MR/Personnel/Voting

**U.S. Coast Guard:** CWO Carol McFadden **tel**: (202)-267-1652, **fax**: (202) 267-4823;

Email: cmcfadden@comdt.uscg.mil,

 $\textbf{http:}/\!/\text{www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wpm/g-wpm-1/VotingAssistance/Voting\_Assistance.htm}$ 

## Federal Voting Assistance Program

Department of Defense 1155 Defense Pentagon Washington, DC 20301-1155

> PHONE: (703) 588-1584

DSN 425-1584

FAX (703) 696-1352 DSN 426-1352

VOTING INFORMATION CENTER (VIC): (703) 588-1343 DSN 425-1343

TOLL FREE (VIC and FVAP staff member): 1-800-438-VOTE (8683)

Visit our website for international toll-free phone and fax numbers.

EMAIL: vote@fvap.ncr.gov

Comments or suggestions on this newsletter are welcome.

Website: www.fvap.gov

Vote!

The FVAP staff would like to extend our thanks to all of you for helping us. We appreciate the work you have done to increase *UOCAVA* citizen's voting participation.



State Chief Election Officers, State Directors of Elections, local election officials, Senior Service Voting Representatives, Service Voting Action Officers, Installation/Unit Voting Assistance Officers, Installation/Unit Commanders, Department of State Voting Action Officers, Embassy personnel, American citizen organizations overseas, political party organizations, overseas American corporations, the Advertising Council, and to all our readers, especially those of you who reproduced and redistributed the *Voting Information News*.

A Strong Country Starts With A Strong Voice – Vote Sgt. Nikki Gardner, USA, stationed in Iraq

Happy Holidays!

**Moving?** Send an FPCA to notify your local election official. Also, send us an email so that you and your replacement can continue receiving this *newsletter*.

#### **Federal Voting Assistance Program**

Department of Defense 1155 Defense Pentagon Washington, DC 20301-1155





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